American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

Folder Description:

Correspondence,
June 5, 1927-July 10, 1927

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Pyengyang, Korea
June 5, 1927

My dearest loved Ones:

Dear ones, the letter written may 10 enclosing Worren's came last Thursday afternoon. That is my last news. Really tho the months seem very long and the questions I wonder all about are gradually being answered and the mail does come surprisingly quickly after all. I keep comparing now with the early days of Burma & Siam when it took a year or more to get letters. Now we can cable and in three weeks get a letter.

I wrote Tuesday of last week after the Chairyung visit. Have been busy all week trying to keep on with Chinese & studying Sometimes 4 or 6 hours a day. I want to take the exam

3/ needs for all of you + what a joy that we can trust Him. to fill the place we'd love to fill, to be more than all we can ask or think. I do thank Him for the "peace that passeth understanding" — I couldn't have believed possible + the strength new each day.

I am glad you enclosed Warren's letter and so glad he has been able to advise and all! Oh! that this may bring them to Him!! It is no good that Bud + Bessie could be there with Eula then it all + good of Van Cleave's to keep the boys + the folks to offer help. I was amused at your speaking of "not being re-quested for Edith" — It seems the Board wired her + I supposed then it would be omitted from the telegram home but they of course couldn't have sure,

2/ on half of the term's work on Jues. P. M. I find it is best to keep just steadily working — I can be happier + somehow a bit of courage comes from fact that it is my job and its faithful performance is maybe the most pleasing to our father in Heaven + then I know Father would want me to keep on. Sometimes I feel such a pull of your need of me Mumsie that I know if my task here isn't done well — I should be there By need, I expect I mean more my desire to be with you — for I know your needs are cared for and with Eula + Ray + babes, Bud + Bessie, + Leo — there is nothing I could help in — but just to be there, Each day I just have to trust the border for the big

4. I do hope Josephine is better now. She ought to be very quiet and have a good rest. Isn't that too bad that she's had such a bad time.

No, Aunt Anna did not write me to come home - what did she mean — because of political conditions or because of Father? I haven't answered her letter yet - in fact written none but to you. I think I'll just tell her frankly about Margaret as I did you. Please, tell Mrs. Mosberger that the cards came forwarded to me here & I will see that they are well used - perhaps some here - later I'll try to answer her good letter. Thank her for it please & tell her it made me very happy - to get it - & the contents as well.

Sarah came back from Seoul

5] Sarah came back Friday p.m. She had no definite work given her & the idea was to get an idea of all the work & then they expected to bring her names up for permanent transfer to Korea in June. She had no such idea of such a quick transfer so came back here & will fill out in Miss Snook's school teaching music till the middle of July and then go to Sorai, at the beach! She is looming with me again & it has been so fine to have her back.

We all went out to the woods last night, evening I mean, for our supper. Carey Reynolds, the eldest daughter leaves Monday for America - so we wanted to have them as much as we can to be together. It was so pretty in the pines & so refreshing.

Yesterday was a big Korean

7] sports + fun!!

Anna wants me to come over to live with her the two weeks that the other 2 foreign nurses (M.E.) go to their annual meeting. I think tho I'll go only one week next week. Sara will help me with the exam + too I don't like to rush off the first week she's home.

We've had some good tennis this week and enjoyed it so much. The Reynolds are so nice. It surely is nice to be here. Mrs. Reynolds is so thoughtful + in such sweet little ways helps me so.

This P.M. is Foreign School Society. Missy. children come from all over Korea here to it. about time to go so dearest ones I'll finish later - Bye for now!

6.] holiday Swing festival - In parks + trees were many new swings - there seemed to be no religious significance but just like our Labor Day I guess. All were supposed to wear best clothes + it was true - almost all the grown people wore such lovely spotless white - + kiddies all the brilliant colors one can conceive. In the yard not far from here. the S.S. in Pyongyang had an annual picnic. There must have been 3 thousand folks there - having races + various sports. Each S.S. with a big canvas boath for a little shade + in front beautiful banners. They were surely having a good time. It was fine to see that great group of Christians gathered there for good, clean

8] Eve. We've just returned from a nice long walk over the hills after supper. We came home from church & helped get supper. Mrs Reynolds' son & wife came so we were 10 at the table. They don't have the cook stay after lunch on Sun. & it was so nice to get supper. Their old amah I guess I told you who'd lived with them 30 yrs. is here - She is over 75 & is just so sweet - We had such fun laughing & talking altho we cant understand a word! The church service was very fine. Dr. Erdman brother of Pres. of Board talked & it was splendid!

I will close now for this week & will be looking eagerly for more letters. I'm so eager to know about you mumsie mine, don't stay by yourself there - but do take a good rest and have a change. If you need anything tell me! How my heart aches & bleeds for you brave little Mother mine & while I am content here with His peace - I wish so to be able to be with you - but I must trust you to our dear Saviour who will lead in His perfect will. All my love my loved Mumsie, & all

Lovingly, I rene.

Sunday 4 P.M.
June 12 - 1927

Dearest Ones at Home:

Have just come back from S.S. and teaching my little babies - really that's all they are but they are darling just the same. As today is Children's Day will have a few minutes before church this P.M. for their Primary songs + work. These little ones are to sing a cute little motion song about lambs + shepherd - but as Mr. Hamilton said who waited for his little boy he wondered what they'd do up in front of the audience - he has two in the group + must know that he may do most anything!! I enjoy working with them, very much.

This is another calm beautiful Sunday with church bells by the score + they began

3/ toward individual problems.
It must be difficult to settle
all the individual problems +
carry the big responsibilities too.
This visit too has been a real
spiritual refreshment for us.
I am glad to come to know him
so well. On Jues. a.m. he
came + we are met him for a
conference. He says China is
pratically evacuated except
for port cities by all missions
as well as ours, by many
business men + consuls.
1/3 of 537 of our missionaries
are in America - those of last
years furlough still there +
this years antedated a few
months - 1/6 in Korea, Siam, Japan
Philipines - 1/3 in Port cities +
1/6 still at stations unable
to leave.
He sees many elements of
hope in the situation in the

ringing before we were ever up this a.m. It is getting nearer summer heat this last few days etc it can be very comfy still. Even so it is very late coming many years in may it gets so hot. Will be ready for it by now I guess.

This week has been very full! Mr. Wells, chairman of the China council (our highest executive committee in China) with Mr. Smith who was in Nanking & there thru the "Nanking Incident" have been here & at other stations in Korea, seeing the refugees, trying to settle problems etc. It has been a most helpful time for all of us. Mr. Wells is so splendid a friend & true. He is so big in vision & steady in his attitude toward all the situation and still so sympathetic in his attitude

& developing of Chinese leaders and the way many are still carrying on! & feels the church is being sifted numerically & purified - that is fine for it; that we will return in a new relationship. In answer to the question, "Are missionaries still needed in China?" we said around one single port city Tsingtao a recent survey was made of 4800 villages in only 500 could they find known christians of any creed or any denomination. The present churches will develop & not need so much of foreign help - but what of the 4300 villages right there. This is a thickly settled province & one of the oldest worked! It is very typical of the rest of the

5) field!! We hear reports of giving to missions falling off because of evacuation not only for China but for other fields! How we need just now a vision of world as a whole and that all these trials are working out God's purposes and that it will bring an even stronger + better church + it ever China needs Christ it is now. Mr. Wells said it this way. "What is Communism offering to China? Class strife enmity, war, hatred of capital, hatred of God. Surely in that situation there is more of a need for Christ than ever before! In the province of Hunan there has been made a real

7] surely is awful prospect of suffering as a result.

Mr. Wells feels sure of our ultimate return - when we can't say - only the political events will decide - maybe in fall we can go to port cities - may even interior things have been happening very fast these last few weeks. Southerners coming north. Yen Shan-shi the governor of Shansi who has so far kept out of the muddle has with a fresh army of 100,000 sided with the moderate wing of Nationalists. He has had the model province of china for several years, models in govt + social reforms - foot-binding prohibited etc - He with Feng Yu Hsiang

6] laboratory experiment of communistic principles + it surely is in a pitiable condition. For example, the govt. has set market prices on crops and also price on laborers wage - which is so high that farmers can't plant all of their land - as a result only about 1/3 of land is being farmed - It is of interest in mentioning Hunan that the soldiers who did the killing + most violent atrocities at nanking, according to the combined testimony of missionaries given out in a signed statement were Hunanese.

The basis on business + all thru the communistic principles there would be an object lesson to the rest. The

8) are trying to get a peaceful settlement & stop to war. It is hopeful in that he must be listened to with respect & his force will help it. Many see must hope it this turn & feel that there may be a peaceful taking over & hope for no repetition of the Nanking affair! Will see!

Later

Now am at the hospital to have dinner with Anna Rust I have stayed here several nights this week as the two nurses are in Seoul at annual meeting leaving her with the full charge of the hospital — Imagine & she just came out in Oct. She surely is doing splendidly! She surely does mean a lot

9/ to me here and at this time especially!! It surely is a blessing to have her.

I want to tell you the sweetest thing that just happened! Anna called me to the window to see a great procession of Koreans coming it. It was a picture - The men in spotless white & younger children in brighter colored dresses all carrying bouquets of flowers coming to hospital words to bring flowers & sing hymns to the patients. It surely was a sight to see them & to hear them singing "Nearer my God to Thee". I wonder if any place in the world the

11) teach me at Sorai the
knack — to be with Anna
during July — her vacation
when there would not be
so many offers to go + none
with her especially — Mr.
Wells was so sweet about
my request to go there instead
of up to Syen chun. I told
him why I rather needed
Anna these months ~~that~~
~~latter~~ + it has been so
wonderful how he's done
all possible to work it
out. I shall always be
grateful to him for it. He
will see about a few
details at Seoul + if they
work out I will spend
2 months at Sorai one with

10] churches or more earnest and devoted and really put Christ first in their lives as they do seem to do here in Korea. It truly is remarkable but surely what the normal church should be - the indifference and coldness of too many we've known of in U.S. surely in the Master's sight is abnormal.

In conference with Mrs Wells (returning to that subject) he urged very diligent language work + that just gotten Peking teacher for Syen chun for all to study. I had already made plans to have Mr. Wang

12] Anna - Study six weeks & rest - then in September if all is well go to Chefoo or Tsingtao China or if not go to Syen chun to Language School. By the next letter I'll be able to let you know, for sure!

This week has been also the foreign School Commencement week. There is a splendid foreign school here the U.S. no missionary kiddies don't have to leave for America till after U.S.

Thurs. P.M. The Korean College glee club gave a concert out under the trees of the campus & it was very fine. The program was varied &

[3] surely showed hard work + real talent. Mrs. Reynolds says she just can't believe it sometimes when she sees what changes have come in such a few years comparatively. They had asked me to play a solo on the guitar but you know how well I could but three of us sang + I played. Am glad to help a bit when I can.

The first of the week our group here will be breaking up for a week. We've surely had a splendid group of fine people to be with. Anna tried all week to get us to go to eat Japanese food + at last Friday evening we went + such a nice time it was. Seven of us went to a Japanese Restaurant. They took us to a lovely clean room, low-ceiling + walls made of lovely sliding screens, clean matted floor — from one window we could see in an inner court a miniature but lovely Japanese rock garden with trees + bird baths + stone shrine for incense

15 back to church to practice with my babies getting up on the platform + go over the song before the church service.
I'll finish later-
after Supper! The kiddies did pretty well for such youngsters, we've had supper + I want to finish this before going over to stay all night with Anna.
I have one two letters I'll send to you later - Anna Moffett's after her Nanking experience + the notes of Mr. Smith's talk I'll not wait to recopy them this evening. I think they should be well published as they show a side of the event which many may not get. We've heard many saying others say Chinese don't want us back etc - that's not been printed. This shows another attitude - the chagrin + shame the better ones felt over the

14] to be burned to gods or ances-
tors. In the room was a
low table about 8" high +
4 feet long - at each end a
grate set into the end of table.
Two Japanese girls, so picture-
que + dainty brought in pans
of charcoal which were set in
the grates then plates of raw
meat, onions, greens, macaroni
like food, eggs, + bread. This
they cooked before us over the
charcoal burner. It was all
very quaint + picturesque to
see them kneeling before the
low table - Their charming kimonos
and unique hair dress made
them a picture. The food was
delicious. They added sugar +
kind of bean sauce to it +
it [illegible] flavor. Cooking
it this way we were sure we
could eat it + perfectly clean.
Japanese tea in dainty cups
completed the meal.
It is time now for me to go

16 | incident & how really many
claims even risked their
lives to save these fleeing
foreigners & get them food.
He spoke too of the great eye-
opener Dr. Williams death
was to the students who were
welcoming the Southern forces
& how their beloved president
was killed & plowed them
there was an element in
their ideal which was far from
the millenium they were
sure were coming. They talked
& sacrificed all their possessions
to bribe officers to let foreigners
alone & to ransom those
taken. It was a great means
of opening eyes to the radical
element which must be
reckoned with! But more
of this later!

As I look back on the latter
it is full of this & that
& truck along & not a
word of all that is the

17.] most upper most in my mind and heart all these days + thru the many things wrote that which is always with me. I think often I shouldn't be doing all these — but still after all I guess it is my salvation to keep busy with the affairs of each day! I used to wonder how one in grief could go on with the commonplaces of life but I see now that the very demand to go on is that which just saves one. We cannot sit + grieve + Father wouldn't wish it — tho at times just keeping up + going is so hard. What grace + strength the master does give + how I've had to just hold on in desperation sometimes just to Him. The verse Col 1:11 helps me so — "Strengthend with all might according to his glorious power

19 so good to you + have prayed for me. — as I know they have by the answers to their prayers in strength + peace in my heart;

— I don't know at all about settlement of the estate but I presume Lea + Bud are doing that — it may not have been written down but I owed Father $6 25.00 — about I'm not sure exactly — loaned on the year at Maddy — which I was to pay at maturity of my Union Savings + Loan. This may help to keep things straight! — Rather dear, this poem is one that Anna sent to me. I think it is so sweet I wanted to copy it for you — Ah! my precious mumsie, how I'd love to be there with you + help you — It seems sometimes my heart just can't stand it! — After I know about everything it will help

18] unto all patience and long-
suffering with joyfulness
These days of waiting for letters
& wondering about yours
Mumsie mine & all, all, —
I've needed the patience & the
with joyfulness I've not been
so easy! But he is sufficient
and the "Lord is my joy and
my Song!" So many letters I
want to write to Eula Ray,
Warren, especially to Bessie
who did so wonderfully fill
a real daughter's place and
helpers — but so for it
is a bit beyond me — I just
can't write yet — Mumsie
to yours is all I can do —
but yours are to them too
& please tell them how I
will write later! No letters
came this week but will
soon I know! Please thank
too all who I know have been

20| Do you need money? Are you alone? Are you well? This little lavender bag I found down in a Japanese store + it seemed just to fit you dearest use it all the time + enjoy it. There comes with it a great bundle of love to my precious mummie mine! Please thank Sarah for her letters. I can't write her yet but will soon. Bye dearest ones, god keep you safe + keep all of us closer + closer to Him that we may live in constant touch + communion with Him, to be a blessing to others and a channel for His love to those who know Him not. When we too see Him face to face may we have no regrets of words not said nor love + obedience given! How I praise Him for every one of you + love to every one (Please send Twins + Margie's height + length + feet) Love to all. --- God keep you. I love

Pyengyang, Korea
Monday, June 20/1927

My own Precious Mumsie Mine;

Sarah gave me this tablet she got in Seoul - I thought you might enjoy a change in paper for once from that thin paper I've been using. This is Monday eve. + we've just had a good time playing tennis + now after a shower I want to visit with you dear heart. The paper said that a boat leaves Kobe in three days which I may be able to catch if I hurry - so you'll be sure to get a letter I wrote to Bessie last night + by the time I finished hers it was too late to write another. I have surely have been full days. I told you of Mr. Wells visit. Well last week I crammed + studied first hard all week and on Saturday a.m. I took the last of my third term examinations and in the afternoon Mr Van Dyck sent me the results of this + the other half which I took a couple of weeks ago. I'll tell you that he gave me 90. on one + 95 on this second one - It was the hardest and I had no idea I'd get that much. I say it only in praise

to the Master who has given me the grace + strength and courage to go on. I surely never could have done it by myself. The man gave a hard examination - big long English sentences to put into Chinese - Like "The Protestants regards Jesus Christ as the only mediator between god + man" etc !! I did so enjoy those lessons + want to continue studying them even if the exam is over because they will be invaluable.

This morning + all day but for a few hrs. this P. M. I've been looking up geography questions. We have 54 to answer + then later someone will mark ten for us to answer. It really is 2nd year but work one does without a teacher + just now I want to get it off before the annual meeting begins on Thursday of this week. That will give me a good start on next term's work. I am very thankful that The Father has so planned it that we've been able to study on + not lose time; The fact that I had done so is the reason Mr. Wells made the exception of me - allowing me to go to Sotai. It is all settled now. I'll go to Sorai Beach for July + August + study and finish up my work + have a rest there. I'm very thankful indeed. It will be very restful and nice. It is a sweet provision by the Heavenly Father,

3 Do not change any address but the mail from here will be forwarded to me there and if you'll address it here it will be easier for you. Where dear do you want me to send your letters. I am sure you're not in Woodburn all the time but still they'd surely forward your mail while if I sent it to Bessie's or Eula you may not have mail forwarded from there. I feel sure you'll be leaving addresses from Woodburn when you leave. Tell me, if whether you'd rather I'd not.

I wrote to Bessie a note of appreciation for what she has done so beautifully & finely! Mother hasn't she been a real jewel! not all daughter-in-laws would do as she has! She surely has been fine! I appreciate it so for I really feel she took my place and is now in a very real way to be with you & help so & just be company! I sent her a Japanese Kimona that we get here not in any sense of pay - what she has done is so far beyond what one can repay that isn't considered but just as a love gift for her sweet service & doing what I couldn't in my place, I am so glad for your last letter with news of you & all in it. The one written May 24 is the last one. I am so comforted to know that Bessie is free to drive to go with you just as you wish & feel able to go. Go up to Leo's & to Uncle Alva's

4 and to Brownsville. Get Clyde at his vacation time for a trip + Aunt Callie. Ah! mumsie! how my heart cries out for you dearest, I want you so + to be with you! And to love you there alone is sometimes most more than I can stand — I know tho you'll be well cared for + I too am oh so thankful that you can be independent and free from that added burden these days! Love Bud + Bessie; Ella + Roy + Babes + Leo + all so I know you'll be cared for but mumsie I want you! I'm not very brave sometimes when I write to you, forgive for it all comes with such hurt and pain + vividness. Please for- me for making it harder for you. How much we have to praise Him for!! The strength + the daily peace for us and the unspeakable glory for Daddy Si- and all he is enjoying. We can't wish him back with body impaired by disease and we are surely grateful for the Father's mercy in sparing him that — and what rapture for him now perfect + complete in Christ + I think often as I look at the clear blue

5) of the sky - it may be very soon now that will be meeting him when he comes back with the Master for us! Mumsie, I wish it could be soon! But even so the hurt does stay and overwhelm almost at times. I'm so glad Jesus understands that the tears aren't of rebellion nor of lack of faith - but he wept for Lazarus and he put love in our hearts so he knows the hurt. It's hardest for you Mumsie dear + each day I pray you may have that abiding strength and comfort! I've been thinking about the home dear, if it sells + I do think it is best to sell it - don't sell all the furniture and familiar things. - keep the nicest and maybe in Roseburg or Salem store it for a time - sell later if necessary but you'll want some place to call your own later even a few rooms maybe and the familiar things will be best - What do you think? The piano + my bedroom set + rugs in living room etc - But do as you think best. Keep your electric things too - let Enid + Bessie use them or store them till you know. Please tell Eulalous her letter have helped + I'll try to write her soon but I just can't - yet.

Yes, matter mine you did just

Ley right dear about the cable + don't worry about that! I had Ray's letter which said Daddy was breathing, Sarah's with first news that Dr said he couldn't get well + then yours the first two just mentioning his illness rather briefly. Of course it was such a shock to get it but Mother, I'd rather have known, as you did, because others would have written supposing I knew + that I couldn't have borne. The month of waiting for letters was hard but "My Grace is Sufficient" + how sweetly tender + sufficient God has been, led me here with this lovely family + Mrs. Reynolds has been so sweet + helpful! Then Anna has helped so much! and Sarah's been a jewel to me!! I was prepared in a way for when I left Daddy last fall I felt it was the last — somehow — I'm glad you laid Daddy away in Brownsville - I couldn't decide where you'd take him — Eula told about that — Forgive its late, I'm sorry my letters are so unsatisfactory, these days but will try to write again — Mummie mine be careful, keep well + get as much rest as you can. God keep you well + strong + in the hollow of his hand + tender care. Love to all who helped you so in Woodlawn, — Love to all the family + loads for you Mother mine — "God keep you"

Love,

"A Day In The "Closed" Land of the East"

My! what a day we've had! We seen such interesting sights in this little country. Miss Snook in Pyengyang is in charge of a Presbyterian Girls School of 185 pupils. Today was the annual Spring picnic so she asked us "China fleas", as we are jokingly called, to go with them for a two-hour train ride down to the coast town of Chinampo, Korea. We began the day by getting up at four a.m. - ah but it was hard! To save our hostess and the cook we were asked to have Korean breakfast with the teachers at the school. Thus at five in the morning we had our first Korean food. It proved most appetizing and delicious and not so different from the food in our Chinese home. It consisted of a bowl of rice and a big bowl of broth with meat, bean curd, and "fen tiao". This last is very fine macaroni. When cooked it is very clear and transparent and about as slippery to eat as one can imagine. After this good breakfast we went by trolley to the depot arriving before the school girls who had walked down.

3] in at the ankle, with a long white top coat tied at the side and a small black hat, — so small in proportion that it seems more amusing to us. The women's skirts are plaited on to a band and wrapped around them. They wear a short jacket or blouse The older women wear a very quaint kind of white headdress with the ends tied in the back, at right angles forming a square — giving the effect of a Dutch windmill. We see women in the village washing clothes at the edge of the stream — beating the clothes on the flat rocks with big flat paddles. How they get the clothes so beautifully white is a mystery — perhaps the oriental glare takes the place of the wash boiler.

We arrived at our destination, the girls all lined up again and were counted. The Korean pastor and quite a large group of the Christians met the train. They helped us all day making arrangements and guiding us around. I was reminded of what was said of the early Christians "how they love each other". There seems to be such a sweet spirit of fellowship among them.

First we stopped at the Presbyterian church - It is entirely self-supporting and independent. Around the open

2| It was a sight indeed to see them come. That early the street was empty and we could see these one hundred-fifty girls marching by two- in a line fully two blocks long. They wear a uniform of blue pleated skirts - white blouses tied at the side, in true Korean style. Almost all wore their hair in a long braid hanging down the back. and reaching almost to the knees. All are Christian girls and it is a joy to think of the changes in their lives or what lives many are saved from!

We had such an interesting ride thru the fertile tilling farm land. Some of the hills were wooded and often terraced for cultivation. The rice paddies were so interesting; little squares of land flooded with water. Some were plowing for the sowing - a man wading above his knees in mud and an ox pulling the plow. It looked exactly like the pictures of such scenes and how oriental it seemed! As we rode along we see two-wheeled carts drawn by oxen lumbering on to the city with spring vegetables. The people walking are very noticeable in their white clothes. Almost all Korean adults wear white winter and summer. The men wear long voluminous trousers tied

court were built a Kindergarten
the pastor's home and the church
In the church veritably were long rows
of shelves to hold the shoes. All
must remove shoes to enter either
churches or homes. There were no
seats but the floor was covered
with nice matting. The building
was an L in shape, with one
part for the men and the other for
the women and the pulpit and
organ in the angle of the L. Many
churches use this plan; while others
stretch a curtain lengthwise; still
others have dispensed with the curtain
but the men and women still sit
separate.

From the church we went up the
hill to the most fascinating garden
On the way up we passed shrines
to idols and from the top had a
splendid view of the town and the
sea beyond. Then came the real treat
the cherry-blossoms!! Words fail
in description of the loveliness!
A perfectly heavenly sight! These fine
big trees entirely covered with
blooms. These trees have little fra-
grance and no fruit but flowers
seem more profuse and very much
larger than on the fruit-bearing
variety. Cherry-blossoms - those
two words have an entirely new
meaning to me after seeing this
charming garden! The winding path,
beneath a bower of whiteness, dark green
hedges, little pagodas, stone

5 lanterns leading up to a heathen shrine, carved stone idols several feet high, pink azalias, yellow flowering bushes, across the valley the bare hills with dirt of a variety of colors then the sea beyond, in the park Koreans in their quaint costumes, Japanese ladies with the fantastic hair-dress clicking along on wooden shoes — all spread of in the morning sun - while the hundreds of bees around the blossoms gave such a lazy sleepy atmosphere to it all — could you imagine anything more picturesque! We just feasted on the beauty — the later we were plebians enuf to heartily appreciate the lunch Miss Snook had provided. It was with regret that we left this glory spot but we felt the trip was already well worth while.

The next place to visit was a pottery — we watched the potter with intense interest as with swift deft fingers he formed vases, and bowls of great variety from the soft clay on the whirling wheel in front of him. How vividly came Jeremiah's trip to the potter to us and the lessons which it teaches. Truly the potter has power over the clay to make a vessel as Paul says of honour or dishonour but the joy of the promise of II Tim. 2:21 which follows. "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour

big chests with silver trimming and on top of them the sleeping pads and covers of red and blue silk. We were told that the chests and covers and the important articles of furniture in a Korean room. There was nothing else in the room but a small table about twelve inches high. We sat on the floor Because it is warm weather the floor was cool but in winter it would have been hot. The floor is made of slate and mud then covered with many layers of paper. The top one is very strong & is well oiled - so it is very durable and sanitary. The fire is built under the floor thru a hole outside in the foundation either at the front or side and the flue then is built at the back and built from the ground up.

After a long wait they brought us "kookus" to eat. Many of you have read Mrs Hayes excellent and humorous description of eating this slippery food. If you haven't get it from the Board (5 cents). With much difficulty we got our feet under this little table, took our chopsticks to try this famous dish. A huge bowl of soup with meat and flat macaroni-like string made of buckwheat flour, all highly seasoned. The only possible way to eat it is to get the ends safely between chopsticks then to your mouth if possible and draw it in till it breaks or you can bite it off. It was fun and most satisfying.

6] Sanctified and meet for the Master's use". As the clay was so soft and pliable in the potter's hand so it came again with new force to me, we must be in the Master's Hand that He may make of us a vessel to be used by Him.. As this worker began to make room it seemed sure to be an open flaring bowl but he crushed the edges together and made a beautifully shaped vase — so our life plans may be changed from our first ideas - but we must remember it is the Master who is moulding us and yield to His guidance and will. The story of Jeremiah has such comfort. The clay resisted and had flaws in it and the Master potter couldn't carry out His original will - the vessel stumbled - it was marred but "He made it again" a lesser vessel than first plan — but what hope for us that all our failures, stubbornness and faults this Master potter can make us again and give victory and glory to His name. What hope for us as did as Israel to whom He spake.

After this all went to a Korean restaurant to have dinner. As the main room was full we were taken to the guest room - back inside the court. This was a real Korean room - a single room with sloping tile roof - so many many are thatched - about eight feet wide, twelve feet long and 10 feet high. At the back of the room were lovely

8/ We had more than we could possibly eat for the amazing price of fifteen sen or about seven cents gold!

At four we were returning to Pyongyang - some of the girls were asleep - others still were not too tired to sing. They as well as we had thoroughly enjoyed the day.

We had a splendid language teacher and while we can get him we are surely digging - longer hours than at Peking. I do hope to keep up and finish my language work on time! I still enjoy it though at this it might seem that our chances for immediate return to China may be few. This really is a great opportunity to see what is considered the model mission field of the world! Surely, this has been a land of miracles. Chosen is quite a good name for it - for it seems Chosen of God to help Asia to know Christ! They are a wonderful people and we are sure our days here will be valuable ones -

Don't forget what time you spend on them do not spend in prayer for China days may mean the turning of her history one way or the other -

With Sincerest love to all -

Irene

Sunday P.M.
June 26. 1927

My dearest Mumie & all:

Your two good letters came last week the one written May 31 from Woodburn and June 7 from Salem. It is so good to get letters!! My! my precious ones you can't imagine how I've appreciated these letters - I feel like the long month of wondering about everything is about past - It helps so much just to know about everything. Your clipping of the newspaper account came. Knit it splendidly written and it is nice. I am so glad to have it! So many details & all in it. Now you know I can understand in a new way what people mean in connection with the four gospels - each one writes his angle & all are true but different - for all to each one of you has written about

3) anyone !! To be thinking of having a home for me to come you'! Darling you're so fine + big + just pure gold! How I long to be with you - to help these hard lonely days but I know you had Bud + darling Bessie, + Eula + Ray + twins + Leo + Bernyce + Kiddies + all - but anyway I wish I could help. Mother what you said about my coming home - I hope the Forsythe's won't write the Board or anything - you're the one most concerned - I don't really think they'll do anything. Of course the thing naturally I'd do + the easiest course would be to come - but mother God has given us - this blessed work for Him + I feel as you for now it comes first but Mother mine if the time comes that your need of me is first you know I'll come

2 everything, yet on gives one detail and another a different one - I am beginning to feel satisfied now - or nearly all questions are slowly being answered. Sarah + Mrs Layman wrote + then this week Leo wrote such a fine letter with so much in it about the cemetery + all that. - Mother, did you read Mrs. Mannings letter. Wasn't it sweet of her to write + such a nice letter - but so flattering - I surely don't feel worthy a mite of all that.

Mumsie dearest, I hope you can sell the house + get full value. You mustn't live there alone - + don't stay anyplace alone for a long time yet - maybe later. I know how you feel about wanting a home of your own + do get one later maybe to have when you want to go to it. Bless your heart mumsie mine, was there ever a sweeter mother to

4 I surely do just bow to you dear one for bravery - you have the hardest part. I've felt so often "as we go with Him thru the fellowship of His suffering - which He has told us of - we can be of greater use maybe + oh if anything can bring greater glory to Him - we can bear it gladly with His grace! Mother mine - if ~~there~~ can be any blessing to others thru me - it will be all due you - precious mumsie - I am glad to bear it and His grace is sufficient but oh in spite of it all sometimes the deeps of the hurt just seem unfathomable - but I love you + all my family + the Master - so I must be brave. Dadsy seems so close sometimes - I just know he is here - + it is so sweet to know - someday

5] he'll come back thru the blue for us - maybe real soon. I do want to be found faithful + for yours + his + the Masters be of use!

You didn't mention Uncle Alva's coming, Leodid, How long was he down? Was Clyde up for the funeral + to Brownsville. I am so glad Cecil is the lawyer! I didn't do anything for Earl's commencement - I am sorry - It is so nice you can be with Bessie! Do go lots + have a restful summer! I'm glad too you've not sold all the furniture and all + it is fine to do as you are doing!

Am glad you enjoyed the pictures Have a group to put in this letter of Korean life - which I hope you will enjoy. Will explain on the back! I enjoyed Mrs. Norman's joke! Bless Margie dear - I wish the big hole would bring all of you to Ching! Its sweet not to be forgotten!

7. Tis a sweet & healing comfort
to us with broken hearts
When from earth's dearest loved
one we are called to part
Thodays seem long & lonely and our
faith is weak and tried
We must grip His hand the harder
and hear His word "abide"
He is not gone but is with Christ
and Christ in us doth dwell
United still is Christ are we -
a wondrous comfort - go to others tell.
This week has been ever so full
Have been studying for chinese geography examination which I took on Sat - got 98 & took the radical exam too - 100 - got that much off. Then on Thursday the annual meeting of the Korean Presbyterian mission began and I've been attending it & studying too. Will take a vacation for a day or two & just go to meeting now for

6/ I think .30¢ of every dollar not bad for the berries – & am surely relieved that you've no responsibility for them. We got the cow.

My! I am sorry about Mr. Mock. Of course it was a question of time for him but Dr. Sims would feel badly over the accident. It is too bad. I state Mrs. Mock just now & composed this poem for her but will send you a copy – "I" It just describes my feeling

The awe and wonder, how precious
and how sweet,
He stands before our God and father
perfect and complete
Complete in Christ who died for him
all promises fulfilled
Unreproveable, unblameable in Christ's
perfection all power of Sin is stilled
He bears God's glorious moral image
which first was the fathers plan
Without the griefs & heartaches
Sickness that Sin has brought
to man.

8/ the close of it. There is such a fine spirit of fellowship and friendliness among all + the work surely is interesting! Mrs. Reynolds has had various interesting folks here as guests and we've enjoyed it! Dr. + Mrs. Avison - pioneer worker who built first hospital at Seoul + that is Severence Hospital! He told how in the early days of reading a paper on furlough at a big meeting and afterward met Mr. Severence who was a millionaire + has helped so much here. They are such a sweet couple. They remind me of you + Father - such pretty white hair - + nice faces -

Today has been Communion Sunday. After S.S. where we surely did have an influx of babies + kept us busy with them we went over to Church

9th There were four babies presented to God - such a sweet service - then a little farewell to four missionary daughters who are leaving for America - then the communion. It was so sweet. There surely is a splendid group of missionaries here - just splendid. This evening was a song service - led by a Mr. Hill of Los Angeles Bible Instr. & he led so well - just like being back at Moody. We sang such good songs then Dr. Chas. E. Scott of China - Mother you'll remember him as the author of several articles in S.S. Times about China - gave a splendid message. He is Cousin Harry's type & ever so fine. He was speaking of the grace to suffer and this story brought to me a new lesson. He said a Chinese heard the gospel at a

11) present large church there
I have thought about it so today
mother as hard as our separation
is now - it doesn't compare with
what Christ suffered for us &
He will give the grace, if He
can use us at all - even a
wee bit for His glory!
I'm going to send later Ama
Moffet's letter about Nanking
affair. I think it will do well
for publication to counteract
many false ideas one might
easily get from the present.
The houses of Hwaiyuen Betty's station were
looted - soldiers lived in them
& city people felt grateful to
the foreigner as it saved them
having to quarter them - & they
feel tho they're lost property
they've gained a new friendship
also as the evangelist was
the mediator in the time of
entrance & that won the
official respects

10/ market, accepted Christ + then led his wife, who was above the average village woman, The villagers began with small persecutions then more open + at last came one night + beat them as they slept on the Kang. He went to see the wounded man + asked him if he suffered much. He said yes, but it is so little in comparison with what Christ suffered for me - Then later they were taken thru the streets + given a chance to recant. They drew a cross in the dust + bade them spit on it but they refused; next they bound them hands & led them to a lake + gave them one more chance but when told to renounce Jesus they said "My Jesus, I love Him" in rage they were pushed into the water. Their deaths however was the seed of the

goodnite my precious mother mine. Tell me about duty on Bessie Kimono - I hope there will be none. I'd love to send you some pretty lavender rayon (Korean mission cloth) + grey but will delay a bit - I don't want my gifts to be burdens to you all in duty. I'll add another word in the morning! May our Heavenly Father give you great peace, strength + comfort this Sunday as you are just beginning it. I'll write Eula + Sarah this week if I can. Will probably leave this week for Sorai + the beach. Still write here!

Love to Reed when you write. I do pray for his success + give Margie a big kiss. Love to Bessie + all!

Ity nite dearest ones;

Irene

A letter soon

Mother

Still address
901 Dr. W. W. Reynolds
Pyengyang, Korea

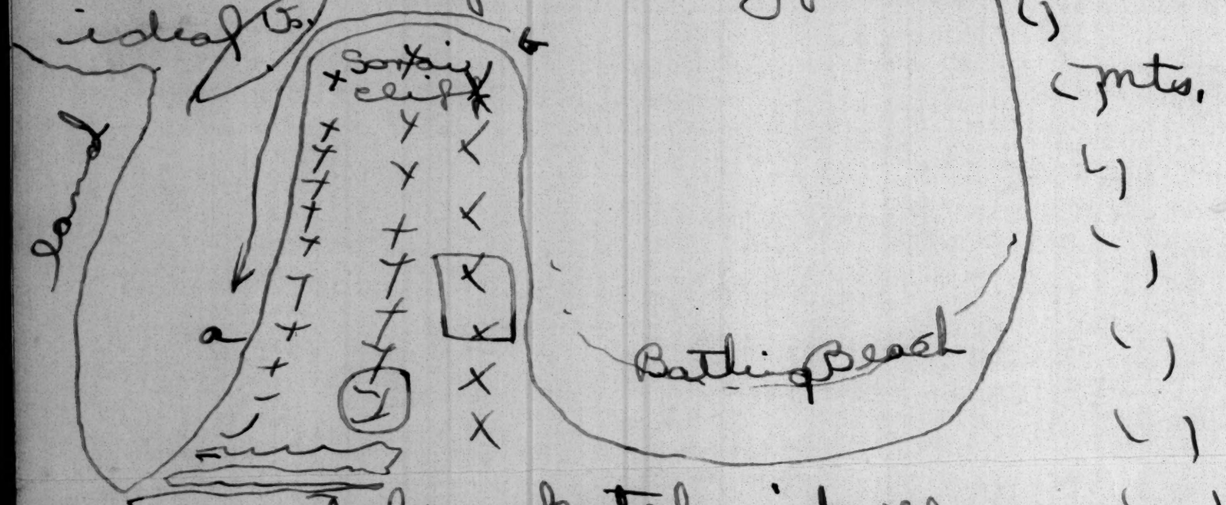
Sorai Beach -
chosen.
July 10, 1927.

My Precious Mumsie + all;
Well, we are here after all of our planning + longing + dreaming + scheming + having hopes high + having hopes dashed low - but we are here - and it is lovely beyond words to describe! What a deep gratitude I feel to the Master for allowing such a blessing! It is marvelously cool + such an ideal spot. It surely was getting hot in Pyengyang before we left. My letter is a bit over a week late in all of everything - leaving + rushing. I had no chance to sit to visit as I always want to do with your dearest ones. Annual meeting closed on Friday. The teacher came from Seoul and I studied some, then Sat. packed to come it meant packing everything else I didn't bring away this Sa Mrs. Reynolds could use the room.

3/ paddy fields — small + large + of every shape - any place where low embankment big enuf to keep the field flooded was tried, rice. Some places being ploughed with an ox pulling a wooden plough others just being planted - women too wading in the mud - other places we saw the men treading this waterwheel which ~~distributed~~ the water up to the field! It was very interesting. We reached here about 4:30 in P. M. + were greeted by such a sight. This place father would have loved! You know he often spoke of certain ~~beach~~ uninteresting + nothing to see. places as Here surely is all the variety one could wish for. The high level point juts out for into the sea + that gives sea on two sides of point — back of it are high mountains — while on all sides there are islands — just so lovely! High + tough. This

2/ Sunday I had the little class + we also went to the Chinese church Mr. Van Dyck who had examined me in Chinese was preaching + it was such a joy to be able to understand a bit — then too when they sang a song — I could read almost all of the characters. I got a real thrill! P. M. I was all in + slept for some hours. Then up early Monday 9 a.m. to get off to Sorai. The girls went with me to the train. In our group were Elsie Engel (little girl of 13) Anna, Miss Horn, a missionary who has a faith school for destitute widows + industrial work with it. It is her home in which we are living, also her two Korean women, cook + girl, + little boy - the trader + 2, after getting all checked we were off — Changed once to a dinky train + then from it to a car — Some Koreans run this bus line over here — but since we were so many we had one car. It was a lovely drive — mts + hills were so green + everywhere along the road were

4] beach is on one side of this point & a glorious crescent of the whitest "white sand one can dream off - and the water so warm!! I can't imagine any place more ideal



This crudely sketches it. The XX are three rows of houses on the point cottages - rather more than shacks & very cozy - ours is the one with circle around it - the approximate location of ours. The square is location of the public hall hall - which is church, gym, business office & library etc. - The wavy section is the grove of young pines just back of us & so nice! From a - b there are rough craggy rocks at the waters edge where the

5] waves dash up with a roar & break into a lovely white mist. I learned the chinese for "white caps" the other day and this is the way "wave flowers" - it is so characteristic of the beauty of expression of these people. I wish all of you could be here how you'd enjoy it! Bessie you'd love it! I think so often of our carefree happy week at Newport and how you'd love it here! Mumsie dear, you'd just enjoy the little cottage we're in to the full - as it is the inconveniencies that mar such trips for you. This is so nice. A two-story brown stained house with many comfy chairs - down stairs - cook's room, kitchen & L shape living room - built-in cupboard for books etc. Up stairs all one big room with four little cubby-rooms built in - one wash room at each end - a zinc sink with

7] sunny days. It can rain if it wants we're ever so comfy, here. It is a bit uncomfy not having a place to study here in the house but there is a porch on the house next door unused where we can go. Really, this is a most ideal arrangement - to go on with study and be able to go in the ocean afterward to swim. I am glad I can have this chance. I love the teacher about six hours a day - when the others get here in a few days they too will study but it gives me such a good chance to hear Chinese - where I would not otherwise. Today I want to get this finished! Yesterday eve. I went with anna to the B's as Elsie isn't feeling very well & then stayed with her in the evening while the others went to

6] space to the outside - & the other two have shelves & places for coat hangers. This way we're all together yet very private & comfy too. The sides of the house are just wooden lifts which open out & give full sweep of air. We had a big rain & wind storm night before last & had to have them all closed down tightly but even so we had wind enuf! We're so dry - no leaks at all - we rocked a bit but not seriously! The next day the sea was angry & dirty looking as it dashed in with big billows! It is getting a bit calmer today but still as I sit at cliffs edge writing I can see breakers & hear the roar of the water. In the distance the blue islands have white clouds hanging low - more rain. July is the rainy season & they expect rain nearly all month with the exception of a few

8] church + for a sing at the public hall! The days are so full + so short! - because we've no good lamps + Miss Horiss doesn't want us to study at night + with six hrs of study - + a few for meals etc - + its dark about 7:30 these rainy days you see where my days go. I am trying to go to bed early + then get up early + prepare my work! Some I have to do! Then not study after class. Dinner bell! - must go.

I have piles of letters to write here - but will surely get at them later - I have Eula's + Ray's + want to write them soon - give them my love + tell them how I've appreciated their letters - somehow I just can't write yet much - It is so hard! Sarah surely deserves a letter if anyone does - I still have hopes of getting one of for her.